

Simplicissimi

Generally, the problems posed in other sections of our Journal are for the seasoned veteran of the word wars. In this section, we are presenting substantially easier puzzles and quizzes, as an encouragement to neophytes, those intrepid souls just beginning their study of the ways of the word.

Our Latin title, SIMPLICISSIMI, appropriately means "the simplest ones." Beyond that, it is a word interesting for its own sake, being a 13-letter word using only I's for vowels. About the only English word topping it is NIMINIPIMINI (a variant of NIMINY-PIMINY approved by the Funk & Wagnalls unabridged), which features six I's in the space of only 12 letters. Can you do better yet?

Since our ticklers are relatively easy, we have included the correct solutions in this issue of WORD WAYS, beginning on page 190.

Word Squares

If you like crossword puzzles, you'll like WORD SQUARES, excellent entertainment both for squares and for the hip.

To complete a word square, you take a 6 x 6 box, such as that in Figure 1, and fill it in so that the square is occupied by six words reading both horizontally and vertically, as shown in Figure 2:

E	S	T	A	T	E
S					N
T					T
A					E
T					R
E	N	T	E	R	S

FIGURE 1

E	S	T	A	T	E
S	H	A	V	E	N
T	A	L	E	N	T
A	V	E	R	S	E
T	E	N	S	E	R
E	N	T	E	R	S

FIGURE 2

Reproduced below are another four word squares, with the perimeters filled in. Can you complete the interiors? To help you arrive at the correct solutions—probably only one solution to each problem is possible—we are listing the 16 letters needed to complete each square below its frame, in alphabetical order. Cross out each letter as you insert it into the diagram, so that you know which letters remain available. Then compare your completed solutions with ours, shown at the back of this issue.

(A)

R	A	D	I	S	H
A					E
D					R
I					E
S					S
H	E	R	E	S	Y

Letters DDEEEEEI
Needed: NNNSSUUV

(B)

P	L	A	N	E	S
L					E
A					R
N					E
E					N
S	E	R	E	N	E

Letters AACCEEEI
Needed: LLOTTUVV

(C)

B	A	S	S	E	T
A					E
S					N
S					S
E					E
T	E	N	S	E	R

Letters AAEEEFGL
Needed: LMMORRVV

(D)

J	A	S	P	E	R
A					E
S					S
P					T
E					E
R	E	S	T	E	D

Letters CIIILLNN
Needed: PTTTTUU

Star Quiz

Have you ever noticed how movie stars and others in the entertainment world tend to have first and last names beginning with the same letter of the alpha-

WORD WAYS

bet? We're talking about stars such as BRIGITTE BARDOT, WALTER WINCHELL, PATTI PAGE, ROY ROGERS, and MARY MARTIN.

If you are up on your stars, you'll have no trouble at all sailing through the little quiz we've dreamed up for you. Indicated below are the names of another 25 well-known personalities. For each one, we have shown the initials—identical, of course—and indicated the number of letters in both first and last name. All you need do is fill in the blanks to complete the names.

Score yourself as follows: 10 or more right, good; 15 or more right, excellent; 20 or more right, superior.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. C----- C----- | 13. J----- J----- |
| 2. S----- S----- | 14. C----- C----- |
| 3. G----- G----- | 15. D----- D----- |
| 4. S----- S----- | 16. M----- M----- |
| 5. K-- K---- | 17. H----- H----- |
| 6. D----- D----- | 18. F----- F----- |
| 7. H----- H----- | 19. B----- B----- |
| 8. M----- M----- | 20. M----- M----- |
| 9. G----- G----- | 21. D----- D----- |
| 10. C-- C----- | 22. V----- V----- |
| 11. V-- V----- | 23. M----- M----- |
| 12. B----- B----- | 24. A-- A----- |
| 25. R----- R----- | |

Note that half a dozen of our selections have first and last names of exactly the same length.

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A Colorful Problem

Names of colors, like any other word category, can often be rearranged to spell unrelated words and phrases. To cite a few very simple cases, ROSE converts into EROS, SORE, or ROES; ECRU is a transposal of CURE; and RUBY transforms itself into BURY.

Listed below are 20 words, names, and phrases, ranging in length from 5 to 8 letters. Each one can be rearranged to spell a common color name. How many of the hidden colors can you bring forth into the light of day?

Score yourself as follows: 10 or more colors, good; 15 or more colors, excellent; all 20 colors, terrific!

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. CHORE | 8. AN IRIS | 14. MAGNATE |
| 2. CARLO | 9. TO LIVE | 15. CRIMEAN |
| 3. LIVERS | 10. RE-ICES | 16. RELAMED |
| 4. LONGED | 11. A MORON | 17. A TROPIC |
| 5. RECTAL | 12. HER CRY | 18. WISH-BORN |
| 6. PULPER | 13. CASTLER | 19. VENAL RED |
| 7. ONAGER | | 20. THY CHAIN |

Acroamatic Acrostics

A series of verses in which the first, last, or other particular letters of the successive lines, read in order, form a word or phrase, is called an acrostic poem. The following poem, dedicated to one of the many worlds of science-fiction, is an example of an acrostic. The first letters of the successive lines, read in order, spell out the title of the poem.

Hispahan

by

Walter Shedlofsky
St. Louis, Missouri

How odd that you hear not the bells of Hispahan,
Ineffable with the music of their clangour;
Strange that you sense not its magic or its languor.
Perfumed winds from that enchanted land bring their balm,
Assuage the soul with essences sweet and buoyant.
Heed not its siren call, for if dreams clairvoyant
Awaken lost memories of that evil calm,
No light of day will break the spell of Hispahan.

The poem "Hispahan" is most effective when recited aloud, conveying a magical sound to the listener.

To challenge your powers of observation, we are reproducing a more complex acrostic poem below. This untitled verse originally appeared in a puzzle column entitled *Golden Days* on October 10, 1885, with the author identified only as a "Mrs. Harris." The first letters of the successive lines do not spell anything at all, but hidden further along toward the right of each line are letters spelling several 12-letter words when read vertically. How many of the concealed acrostics can you find?

He squanders recklessly his cash
In cultivating a mustache;
A shameless fop is Mr. Dude,
Vain, shallow, fond of being viewed.
'Tis true that he is quite a swell—
A smile he has for every belle;
What time he has to spare from dress
Is taken up with foolishness—
A witless youth, whose feeble brain
Incites him oft to chew his cane.
Leave dudes alone, nor ape their ways,
Male readers of these *Golden Days*.

Word Maze

Temple G. Porter
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

K E N Y O T A S I M P R A L I X G R Y M I S T O L A N D Z Y O
Y R D O I L G T J I B D U M O R E W T U Q N L K R F D B I G N
E S I M P O S O I D I S E R P H S I N A P S I H N W R U N T S
P T O G O R E A N I T O L C R U N O C C O R O M E L A O T O E
A D L L U D S E I A Z U L E M P L I T R Y D I P S I C N U N R
N R N I V N I N E A B L T N A T L O V R E P P U R E S T D E M
D K U A N A K I D L Y F O T N Y G A M S L E R I H N H D I A O
I S Y C I L B U P E R B A R A D E T I N U N I T E A L B U R A
T E B I L A M G O L A L I A E Y G A E E W D F H F I Z R D E D
O R U R I N A R E G I N Z L N P B H Y R E O A R K N I L N Q T
L A Z F N A I I L A A E R A O G U B M N C A I N R T O R A U A
A D N A G U S A R I N M B F O W O B A I E C J U A D A Y L A R
G A R T L H A N D E I S B R A F I L L N A K D N E D A R I T A
S T K S D C E E N I G E R I A P E B A I R S I I N F I O L O H
L A G E N E S L E R S L K C A E U E W P C A E I R S B W A R A
E N E W A B U R U N D I A A E P R S I S T O B E P O M N M I S
A Z C H L R A C K B R E A N E K Y O U A R A F M O T A O O A H
H A E T I M A L A G A S Y R E P U B L I C R S C B A Z C S L S
K N O U Z L D M A H N R C E I V E R K P E E P S O A R O H G I
L I L O A I N G A A L I O P M N G W H O E T N T M N O N C U N
T A H S W E S E S N T S I U N O S O F I S W U B E E G O N I A
T S I L S E N T T A I R E B I L H H O H U G I N H T I O E N P
C O M E T O R E R M E M B L R A N A C T E Q S O I F T R R E S
H I N T S A O C Y R O V I I G S P A D E U S T W H S E E F A N
C B A S U T O L A N D Y O C U W I S H E U P O N A S I M T A R
D H O S O M A L I R E P U B L I C E S N T M A T T E R A W H O
Y O A A E N I U G E S E U G U T R O P U A R E D U H P C R I N
C E A D N D L I P A U N D R S I E R R A L E O N E W R H O I U
G C S H I A M F P R I L E S C A I N M S O T N A W T A E S W A
I P L I L E E M M A E N R F G O E U A R S S A C N O A R T E I
A O N N D N T E W X O T V I E W A O R N S D A E G R O T O H U

Depicted above is a letter square, 31 x 31 in size. Can you find in it the 51 African mainland nations plus the island nation of the Malagasy Republic? The 52 names are spelled sideways, up and down, diagonally, and backwards.

In devising the square, we used the list of African states given in the 1966 Edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, so that a few of the most recent name changes in Africa are not reflected in our letter square. Since that emerging continent is in a continuing state of flux, it would be almost impossible to use a list that is completely up to date.

Watch out for traps. The first horizontal line begins KENYOTA. . . , but this has nothing to do with KENYA, a name concealed in the diagram.

The correct solution is in the back of this issue.